

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICAE-00 INRE-00

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O 080954Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0186

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07110

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

USSALTTWO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MBFR, UR, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S
ANNOUNCEMENT ON ER WEAPON

1. LATE APRIL 7 TWO SENTENCE TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON (TOO LATE FOR PRAVDA) REPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON DEFERAL OF DECISION ON ER WEAPONS PRODUCTION. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY SECOND APRIL 7 BRIEF TASS STORY FROM WASHINGTON STRESSING PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS THAT DECISION DOES NOT "MEAN RENUNCIATION OF PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS IN GENERAL"

-- MODERNIZATION OF WAR HEADS FOR THE LANCE MISSILES AND THE EIGHT INCH SHELL WAS ORDERED, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

"QUESTION" OF FITTING THEM WITH "ER ELEMENTS" IS LEFT OPEN.

THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES WILL CONTINUE TO MODERNIZE AND CONSOLIDATE THEIR MILITARY POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS.

2. COMMENT: THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE AT ALL TO THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR SOVIET RESTRAINT IN THIS INITIAL SOVIET REACTION IS NOT SURPRISING, SINCE, IN EFFECT, THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAS MOVED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE BALL TO THE SOVIET COURT. BREZHNEV'S APRIL 7 SPEECH FIRMLY REJECTING LINKAGE BETWEEN ER WEAPONS AND "UNRELATED" SOVIET WEAPONS HAS REITERATED THE SOVIET POSITION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WE ANTICIPATE THAT SOVIET PUBLIC COMMENTARY, WHEN IT DOES COME, WILL ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE BALL BACK TO THE U.S. COURT BY EMPHASIZING THE PROVISIONAL NATURE OF THE U.S. DECISION AND REJECTING LINKAGE AS AN UNREASONABLE FORM OF PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET UNION. WE WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT FURTHER WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS ON SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Review Release Date: n/a
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